

EPA Up to Bat at BMAC

On Friday, May 9, EPA joined Bridgeton Mayor Conrad Bowers at a press conference at Bridgeton City Hall to announce the details of planned radiation screening at the Bridgeton Municipal Athletic Complex (BMAC). While EPA has seen no scientifically validated data that indicates migration of radiological contaminants from West Lake landfill to the BMAC, it is necessary to conduct this screening so that the families that use the facility can base their decisions on credible science provided by environmental experts using professional methods and technology. The screening will begin the week of May 19.

EPA Region 7 is teaming up with EPA Region 5 to conduct the screening using radiation detection instruments, global positioning system equipment, and laptops with software to create mapping products indicating where radiation may be present above natural background levels. The equipment will be mounted on an all-terrain type vehicle or a push cart to maneuver the detectors across the fields in a pattern similar to a grounds keeping crew meticulously mowing Busch Stadium.

The highest priority within EPA is protecting public health and the environment. The field survey work will take at least a week to complete. After the field work is complete, the data will be subject to a rigorous quality-control and quality-assurance analysis to ensure the scientific validity and usefulness of the data. EPA expects final results to be available 30 to 60 days after completion of the field work. The results of the screening will be made available to the public at the EPA Region 7 West Lake Landfill page: http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/, and through social and news media.

In the meantime, EPA encourages the St. Louis community to enjoy the facilities at BMAC and to be confident that this screening will provide the public with definitive results with which to base family decisions. Keeping with our mission of protecting human health, if the data indicates that any further testing or response is necessary, EPA is prepared to take appropriate action.